

17 January 1984

THE HAGUE

CENTRAL AMERICA - PARLIAMENTS

Nearly 600 members of the parliaments of 13 West European countries today criticized U.S. policy on Nicaragua and urged Congress not to grant new funds for Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) actions against that country.

The call was made in a letter sent to House Speaker Thomas O'Neill and circulated at a press conference by Dutch member of parliament Eveline Herfkens.

Herfkens heads the Amsterdam-based Committee of European Parliamentarians and Politicians in Support of Nicaragua.

She said the signatories strongly disagreed with the U.S. policy of political and economic isolation of Nicaragua and support of military actions against that country.

The letter called on Congress to support negotiated solutions to Central American problems such as those proposed by the Contadora group and the Nicaraguan government, and to continue efforts to oppose new CIA funds against Nicaragua.

It also called for halting support of the forces attacking Nicaragua from its border areas, assurance that Nicaragua would not be discriminated against by the United States within international institutions like the World Bank, and guarantees that Nicaragua was treated like other developing nations in aid and trade.

The letter said Nicaragua's scheduled 1985 elections would offer the Nicaraguan people a fair opportunity to determine their own future.

Among the signatories were members of parliament from West Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Austria, Denmark and the Netherlands.

They included British Social Democratic Party leader David Owen and Italian Communist Party chief Enrico Berlinguer.

The letter is a follow-up to one sent to Congress last July in which 200 members of European parliaments expressed grave concern about U.S. acts of economic, political and military hostility toward Nicaragua.